

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system for a vehicle having a front and tail end, said vehicle including with a vehicle body having a door opening and a sliding door (3), comprising[:]

a guide rail (1; 30; 33) which can be mounted on or in the vehicle body in the proximity of the door opening,

a guide element (2) which is displaceable along the guide rail (1; 30; 33) and which is connected to the sliding door (3) by way of a holding arm (5; 32; 34),

a line receiving means (15) of pivotably interconnected members (16) for receiving and guiding electric lines (20) from a connection on the vehicle body to a connection at the sliding door (3), wherein the line receiving means (15) is guided in a said guide rail device,

characterised in that the ~~guide device for the~~ line receiving means (15) is ~~integrated into~~ arranged in the guide rail (1; 30; 33) for the ~~guide element (2) of the sliding door (3), provided at an end of the guide rail or the guide device, which~~ and is directed towards the front or the tail end ~~an end of the vehicle, the front of the vehicle or the tail of the vehicle, is~~ and includes a deflection region ~~for the line receiving means (15) by which it~~ the line receiving means is deflected through a given angle in a given direction upon displacement of said line receiving means in a direction towards said front or said tail ~~the end of the vehicle, and~~

connected to the deflection region is a channel-shaped guide in which the ~~deflection~~
deflected portion of the line receiving means (15) extends as a first run (23) ~~which is adjoined by~~
and forms a substantially semicircular arc (24) of a predetermined radius ~~and adjoining which is~~
with a second run (25), the end of which is connected stationarily to the vehicle body, ~~and~~

wherein displacement of the line receiving means through the curvature of the deflection
~~of the first run of the line receiving means (15) at the end of the guide rail or the guide device,~~
~~which is directed towards an end of the vehicle,~~ and through the substantially semicircular
~~deflection of the line guide means (15) between the first and second runs~~ is in the same clockwise
or counter clockwise ~~are in the same direction with respect to the longitudinal extent of the line~~
receiving guide means (15).

2. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that
the guide rail (4; 30) is arranged externally on ~~or in~~ the vehicle body in the region over which the
sliding door (3) is moved when being opened and closed, and the holding arm (5; 32) is arranged
in the rear end region of the sliding door (3), ~~which is~~ with the front end of said holding arm
directed towards the tail of the vehicle.

3. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that
the guide rail (33) is arranged on or in the lower region of the vehicle body along the door
opening and the holding arm (34) is arranged at the front end region of the sliding door (3), the
front end of said holding arm ~~which is~~ directed towards the front of the vehicle.

4. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail is arranged on or in the upper region of the vehicle body along the door opening and the holding arm is arranged at the front end region of the sliding door the front end of said holding arm directed towards the front of the vehicle.

5. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the holding arm ~~(5; 32; 34)~~ has two arm portions which are connected together pivotably about a substantially vertical axis or is mounted pivotably to the sliding door ~~(3)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that in its front end region which is directed towards the front of the vehicle the guide rail ~~(30, 33)~~ has a substantially horizontally extending curved region ~~(31, 35)~~ .

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the electric lines ~~(20)~~ issuing from an end of the line receiving means are passed by way of the holding arm ~~(5; 32, 34)~~ to the sliding door ~~(3)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the guide rail ~~(1; 30, 33)~~ is of a channel-shaped configuration with an opening which extends in the longitudinal direction and through which the holding arm ~~(5, 32, 34)~~ extends, and the guide element (2) has at least one roller ~~(11)~~ which is arranged in the channel-shaped guide rail ~~(1; 30; 33)~~ rotatably about a substantially horizontal axis and is mounted to the holding arm ~~(5; 32; 34)~~ .

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the deflection region for the line receiving means ~~(15)~~ is provided at the rear end, which is directed towards the tail of the vehicle, of the guide rail ~~or the guide device~~, by which it is deflected through a given angle in a given direction upon displacement in a direction towards the tail of the vehicle.

14. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the means for deflection of the line receiving means ~~(15)~~ is the end of the guide rail, which is directed towards an end of the vehicle, ~~or a channel-like or housing-like region (21a) of the guide device.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in ~~that~~
~~deflection of the first run of the line receiving means (15) at the end of the guide rail or the guide~~
~~device, which is directed towards an end of the vehicle, is~~ forms an angle with the guide rail of
~~through about 90° or through about 120° to about 180°.~~

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that
the line receiving means ~~(15)~~ which is guided substantially horizontally in adjacent relationship
with the sliding door is effected in the deflection region into a substantially vertical direction ~~or~~
~~into a direction opposite to the direction of movement of the sliding door which is to be opened.~~

18. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that
the channel-shaped guide is in the form of an elongate substantially parallelepipedic guide
housing ~~(22)~~, in the one end of which there is provided an opening for the passage therethrough
of the deflected portion of the line receiving means ~~(15)~~ and in which the respective outwardly
facing sides of the runs ~~(23, 25)~~ are guided at two oppositely disposed longitudinal sides.

19. (Original) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that the channel-
shaped guide is arranged in a pillar of the vehicle body.

20-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A sliding door system as set forth in claim 1 characterised in that, to guide the sliding door, at least one second guide rail ~~(7)~~ is arranged on the vehicle body in the upper and/or lower region along the door opening, with a second guide element ~~(8)~~ which is displaceable along the second guide rail ~~(7)~~ and which is connected by way of a second holding arm ~~(9)~~ to the front region of the sliding door ~~(3)~~, which is directed towards the front of the vehicle.
26. (Cancelled)